

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOVEMBER 23, 2010

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with Mr. Chabot and Mr. Petraitis also present.

I. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the November 9, 2010 minutes as amended by Mrs. Walter. So voted.

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the November 16, 2010 minutes. Mrs. Walter indicated 2 minor clarifications and one typo on page two of the minutes. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the minutes as amended by Mrs. Walter. So voted.

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the November 16, 2010 Executive Session minutes as written. So voted.

IA. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve School Warrant #1021 for \$263,172.37, General Warrant #1022 for \$75,386.56, and Payroll Warrant #11 for \$278,023.05. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter noted two changes to the proposed contract between the Town and the North Brookfield Emergency Squad. (Available in Selectmen's Office) She asked that the term of the contract be changed to eliminate the words "one year contract," since this amended contract will only run from now until June 30, 2011. Also, she asked that the payment schedule that states four quarterly payments be changed to reflect that two payments have already been made for this fiscal year. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted, with Mr. Chabot abstaining because he is on the NBEMS Board of Directors.

B. Mrs. Walter noted that four towns were represented at last week's Regional Selectmen's meeting: North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Brookfield, and Warren. The group discussed the joint purchasing bids, and reviewed the Human Resources Intermunicipal Agreement. There were some changes to the Human Resources IMA proposed by two of the Towns that have Personnel Boards that they need to work with.

Also, the Towns were asked to participate in a survey by the Collins Institute of UMass to determine where planned retirements may make job consolidations possible in the future.

The group will not be meeting in December, and the next meeting is scheduled for January 13th.

Mr. Petraitis asked that with New Braintree opting out of the Human Resources IMA, what does that mean for North Brookfield financially? Mrs. Walter stated that there are still four towns involved, at \$6,000 per town.

C. Mrs. Walter attended a meeting last week of the Brownfields Steering Committee at Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission headquarters in Worcester regarding the Town's application for an EPA Cleanup Grant to remediate soil contamination at the Town House. The Steering Committee discussed applications for Phase I Assessments, and also two applications for Phase II Assessments from Brookfield and North Brookfield. The committee voted to move the two Phase II projects forward, with work hopefully to start in January.

Mrs. Walter noted that the Steering Committee also discussed Troy Brown's potential project at 209 Main Street as a Phase I Assessment project.

D. Mrs. Walter presented minor revisions to the three Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) projects to be submitted to the CIP Committee by the Board of Selectmen. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Those three projects are: the soil remediation at the Town House, the repair of the Town House Bell Tower and roof, and the total renovation of the Town House. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to forward the three projects to the CIP Committee. So voted, with Mrs. Walter abstaining.

E. Mr. Petraitis read an announcement from the Department of Revenue announcing that North Brookfield's tax rate has been certified at \$13.56 for Fiscal Year 2011. (Attachment #1) Mrs. Walter commented that the \$1 increase over last year's rate is pretty remarkable given the projects that have been completed. She commended the good work of the accountant, treasurer, assessors, and collector in getting the tax rate set.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. The Selectmen set Wednesday, December 8th at 9 AM as the time for another Department Head meeting. Leslie will send out a memo to Department Heads about the meeting, and asking them to submit any topics for discussion.

B. Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attachment #2) that asks the Town to adopt a by-law for development in floodplain districts. Mrs. Walter noted that she had spoken with Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer John Couture about this, and he confirmed that the Town must adopt either a wetlands bylaw

through the Conservation Commission or a zoning by-law through the Planning Board. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to refer the matter to the Conservation Commission first for their input. So voted.

C. Mr. Chabot read a memo from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean asking to hire Austin Grenevich as a part-time snowplow operator. (Attachment #3) Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to hire Mr. Grenevich. So voted.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mrs. Walter announced that the Police Department will be sponsoring their annual Toys for Joy program. Families with children may sign up until December 8th, and pickup will be December 15th.

B. Mr. Chabot announced that he has collected \$1,200.00 for the repair of the Town Clock. He collected \$191 from Joe Grenevich, \$149 from Ray Dwelley, \$302 from Country Auto, \$458 from Frank Hubacz, and a \$100 donation from Chet Kaczmarczyk. He reported that Howe Lumber has agreed to sell the materials to Jeff Samuelson at a reduced rate, and Mr. Samuelson has agreed to donate his labor.

C. Mr. Petraitis announced that the annual tree lighting ceremony in the center of town will take place on December 4th at 6 PM.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen need to discuss a grant for the elementary school windows.

Mr. Petraitis asked about the Statement of Work from Whalley Computer for the accountant/treasurer server, and Mrs. Walter noted that it will hopefully be ready by next week.

Mr. Chabot noted that all three Selectmen attended the 159th consecutive Fireman's Ball on Saturday night, during which former Fire Chief Jim Black was honored for his 50 years of service to the department. He gave a "tip of the hat" to Jim and Sandy Black for all of their years to the Town. Mr. Petraitis noted that it was also Mr. Black's 72nd birthday.

Mrs. Walter noted that the Water Department suggested that the Board of Selectmen write letters to our legislators in support of the Horse Pond Dam funding. Mrs. Walter will draft the letter to be signed next week.

At 7:30 PM Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to enter executive session to consider the lease, purchase, exchange, or value of real estate because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position. Roll call: Walter, yes; Chabot, yes; Petraitis, yes. So voted.

At 8:20 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant